# Remarks

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1-15 are rejected, and claims 16-20 are withdrawn. By this paper, claims 1 and 8 are amended. Based on the following, consideration of the amended claims, and reconsideration of the remaining claims, are requested.

## Election/Restriction

Applicants hereby confirm the provisional election without traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-15.

## Claim Rejections—35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0194542 (Springer) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0247828 (Brozenick et al.) and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0042421 (Schwarzwalder et al.). Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's position that the combination of cited references renders obvious claims 1-15 of the present application.

The first reason that the combination of cited references does not render obvious any of the claims of the present application, is because there is no suggestion or motivation to make the combination. For example, Brozenick et al. is concerned with vacuum forming an article such that a thermoplastic material is drawn through perforations in a structural support. The thermoplastic material is then shaped, for example, to provide an attachment head 29 to hold the thermoplastic material to the substrate—see, e.g., paragraph 0048. The attachment head 29 is not concerned with the attachment of another object to either the substrate or the thermoplastic material; rather, it is used to attach the thermoplastic to the substrate. Similarly, Schwarzwalder et al. is concerned with a multi-layer polymeric component that uses zone

molding to attach a polymeric material to a mating structure. In order to facilitate this attachment, a section molded portion 20 is disposed through an aperture 52 in the mating structure to maintain the attachment of the polymeric component to the mating structure—see, e.g., paragraph 0060. Again, the zone molded portion 20 is used to attach the polymeric material to the mating structure, and is not configured to attach another object either to the mating structure or the polymeric component.

In contrast to these two references, Springer is concerned with a panel having injection molded components attached thereto. The injection molded components can include doghouses and wire harness attachment components—see, e.g., paragraph 0042. These components are specifically configured to attach other objects to the panel. This is in sharp contrast to the other two references, neither of which is concerned with forming these types of attachments. Thus, the three references are concerned with solutions to disparate problems, and there is no suggestion or motivation to combine them.

In addition to the general lack of suggestion or motivation to combine the cited references, Springer specifically describes its intended uses as providing a method for placing components on a surface of a panel, and eliminating show-through of back side features onto a front surface of a panel. If the panel described in Springer is modified by combining it with Schwarzwalder et al., Brozenick et al., or both, it would be rendered unsatisfactory for its intended use. For example, the polymeric components of Schwarzwalder et al. and Brozenick et al. are not disposed on a surface of a mating structure, but rather, are disposed through the mating structure, or are otherwise disposed on both sides of the mating structure. This is counter to the intended use of the panel in Springer, which includes components on a surface of the panel. Moreover, the polymeric component in both Schwarzwalder et al. and Brozenick et al. can allow a back side feature—e.g., the attachment head—to show through to the other side. Again, this is directly counter to the intended use of the panel in Springer, which specifically attempts to eliminate show-through of back side features. Thus, modifying the panel of Springer by it combining with the techniques of Schwarzwalder et al. and/or

Brozenick et al. would render the panel unsatisfactory for its intended use. This indicates a lack of suggestion or motivation to make the modification.

By this paper, claim 1 is amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. For example, amended claim 1 recites a two-shot injection molded polymeric component having first and second injection molded portions. The second injection molded portion is "made from a polymeric material, and formed such that at least some of the second portion is disposed adjacent the first side of the first portion and at least some of the second portion is disposed adjacent the second side of the first portion...." The combination of cited references does not teach or suggest such limitations. For example, Schwarzwalder et al. relies on a zone molding process wherein a pre-existing polymeric component is locally heated and formed through an aperture in a mating surface. Similarly, Brozenick et al. relies on a vacuum forming process to pull a portion of a thermoplastic material through a perforation in a substrate. Neither of these references teaches or suggests a second injection molded portion formed such that at least some of it is on one side of a first portion and at least some of it is on the second side of the first portion, as specifically recited in amended claim 1. In addition, the zone molding process of Schwarzwalder et al. and the vacuum forming process of Brozenick et al. may result in markedly different structural properties as compared to the injection molded portions recited in amended claim 1. With regard to Springer, Springer describes surface attachment features, which are disposed on only one side of a panel.

In addition to the foregoing, amended claim 1 recites that "the second portion includ[es] an attachment feature integrally molded therewith, the attachment feature being configured to facilitate attachment of an object to be attached proximate one side of the first portion." No such limitations are taught or suggested by the combination of cited references. As discussed above, neither Schwarzwalder et al. nor Brozenick et al. describe polymeric portions with attachment features integrally molded, wherein the attachment features are specifically configured for attachment of an object to be attached proximate one side of the substrate or mating surface. Moreover, as discussed above, Springer describes a panel having

injection molded components on one side only. Thus, the combination of cited references does not teach all of the limitations of amended claim 1. In fact, the panel described in Springer not only includes components on only one side, but is also specifically configured to eliminate show-through of back side features. Amended claim 1 of the present application recites a second portion having an integrally molded attachment feature, where the second portion is on both sides of a first portion. Therefore, Springer teaches away from the invention as recited in amended claim 1, such that the combination of references does not even suggest the limitations of amended claim 1.

Claims 2-7 each depend directly from amended claim 1, and therefore contain all of the limitations of amended claim 1, as well as additional limitations which further distinguish them from the combination of cited references. For example, claim 6 recites that the attachment feature "includes a clamp portion having a pair of arms, the arms being elastically flexible to facilitate receiving and retaining the object to be attached." No such claim limitations are taught or suggested by the combination of cited references. Therefore, Applicants submit that amended claim 1 and claims 2-7 are not rendered obvious by the cited references, and are allowable.

By this paper, claim 8 is amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. The analysis applied above to amended claim 1 and its dependent claims is also applicable to amended claim 8 and its dependent claims. For example, amended claim 8 recites a two-shot injection molded automotive interior trim component including a structural portion with a show side and a back side, and a skin having a portion formed adjacent the show side and a portion formed adjacent the back side. This is in contrast to, for example, the panel described in Springer, which has components attached only to one side, and is specifically configured so that the components cannot be seen on the show side of the panel. Thus, the combination of cited references does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of amended claim 8. Claims 9-15 each depend directly from amended claim 8, and therefore contain all of the limitations of amended claim 8 as well as additional limitations which further distinguishes them from the cited references. Therefore, the

combination of cited references does not render obvious any of claims 8-15, and Applicants submit that each of these claims is allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

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